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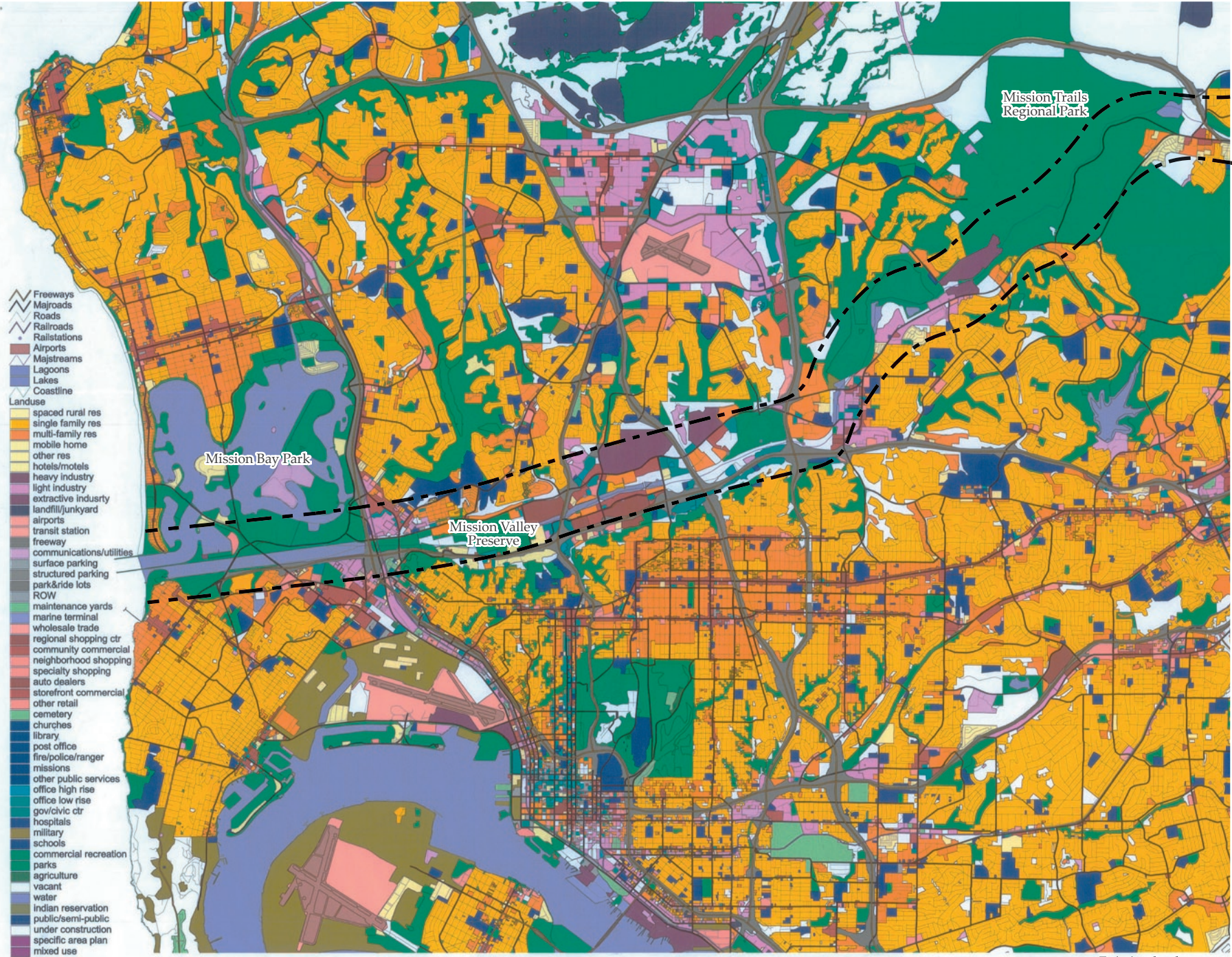
The San Diego River within the boundaries of the City of San Diego exists as a series of diverse habitats, bookended by two major parks, Mission Bay Park and Mission Trails Regional Park. Between these two large open spaces, the river has been impacted and severely altered by mining, flood control and increasing development pressure. These impacts have compromised the integrity of the River and the wildlife habitat it supports.

Land Use

Constrained by private development, utility rights-of-way and industrial uses, the San Diego River has been impacted by channelization, levees and dams, resulting in intermittent flooding of the private development that have been constructed within the floodplain. The study area land use includes significant areas of open space in the major parks and preserves, but the areas within Mission Valley are primarily in commercial and transportation uses.

Safety and Security

Today, many sections of the river corridor are perceived as unsafe. Dense stands of arrundo and other vegetation limit visibility and movement. A significant population of homeless people exists in the river corridor from Ocean Beach to the Santee city limits, with concentrated pockets throughout Mission Valley, particularly where vegetation is most dense. The presence of the homeless adds to the perception of the river in the valley as a threatening environment. The San Diego Police Department has been focusing on the crime problem since October 2004. The department is currently considering the possibility of calculating crime statistics for the San Diego River Park Corridor to determine the impact of their focussed efforts. A dramatic decrease in property crimes is anticipated as a result of their current operation.



Existing land use map

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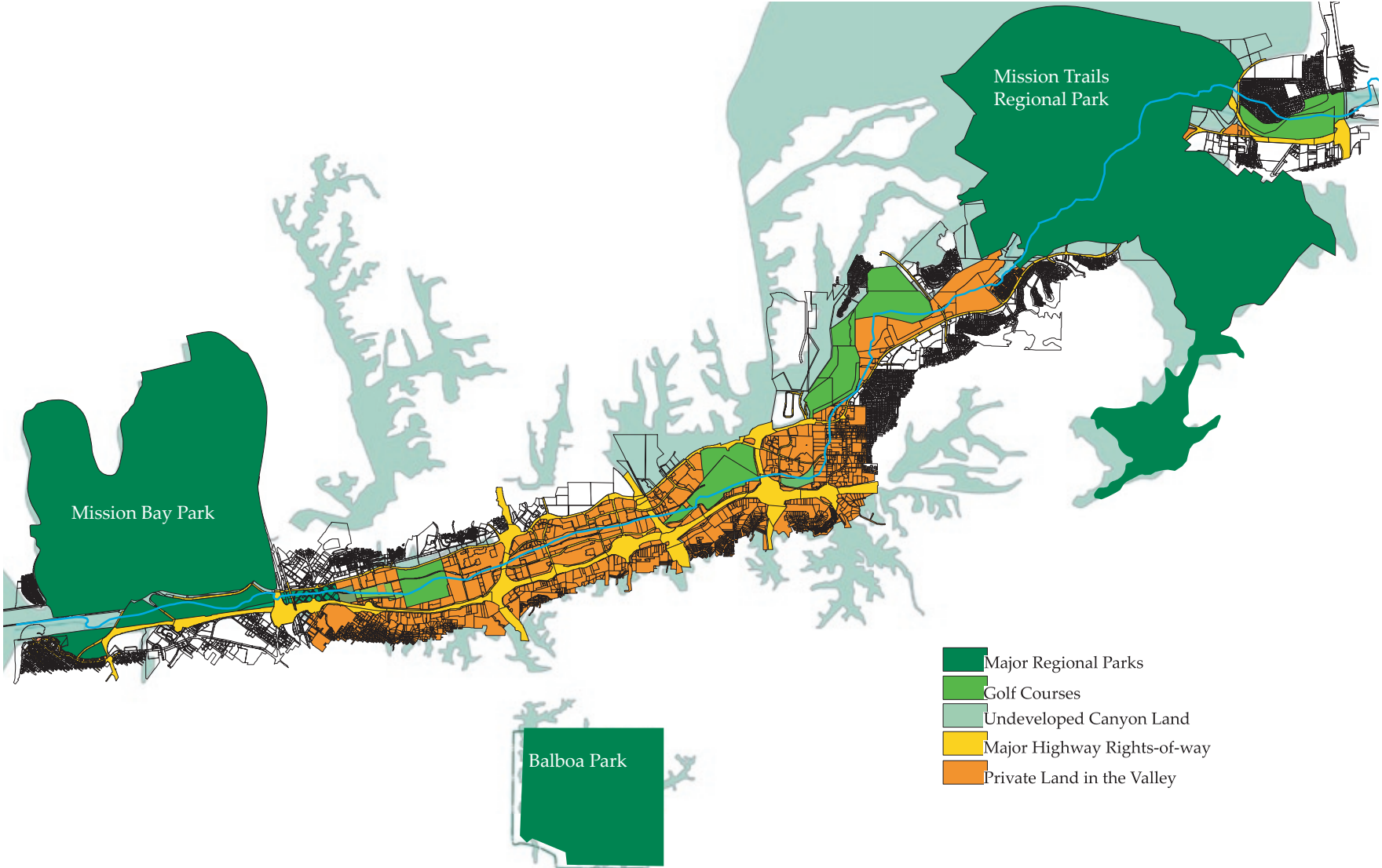
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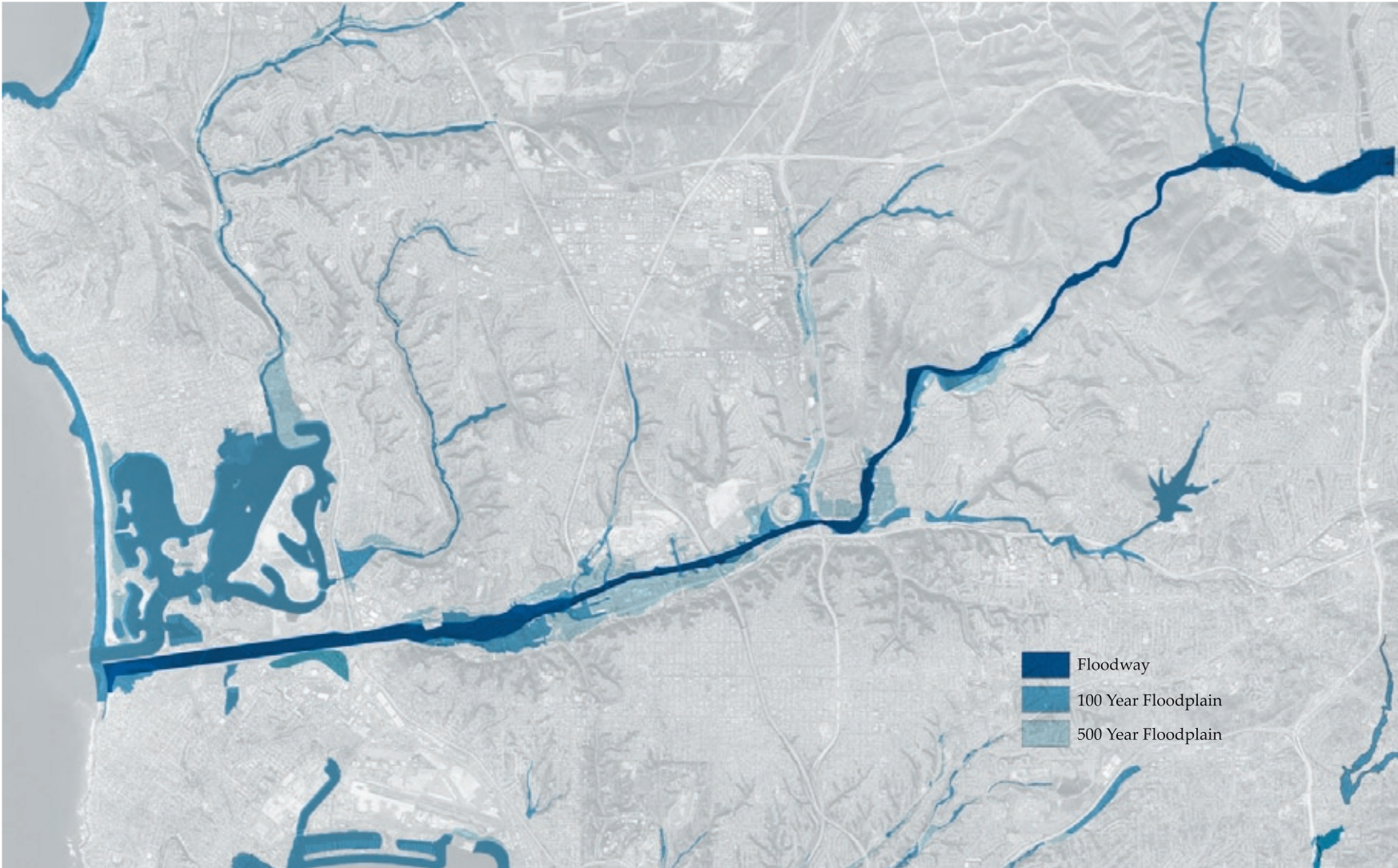


Land Ownership

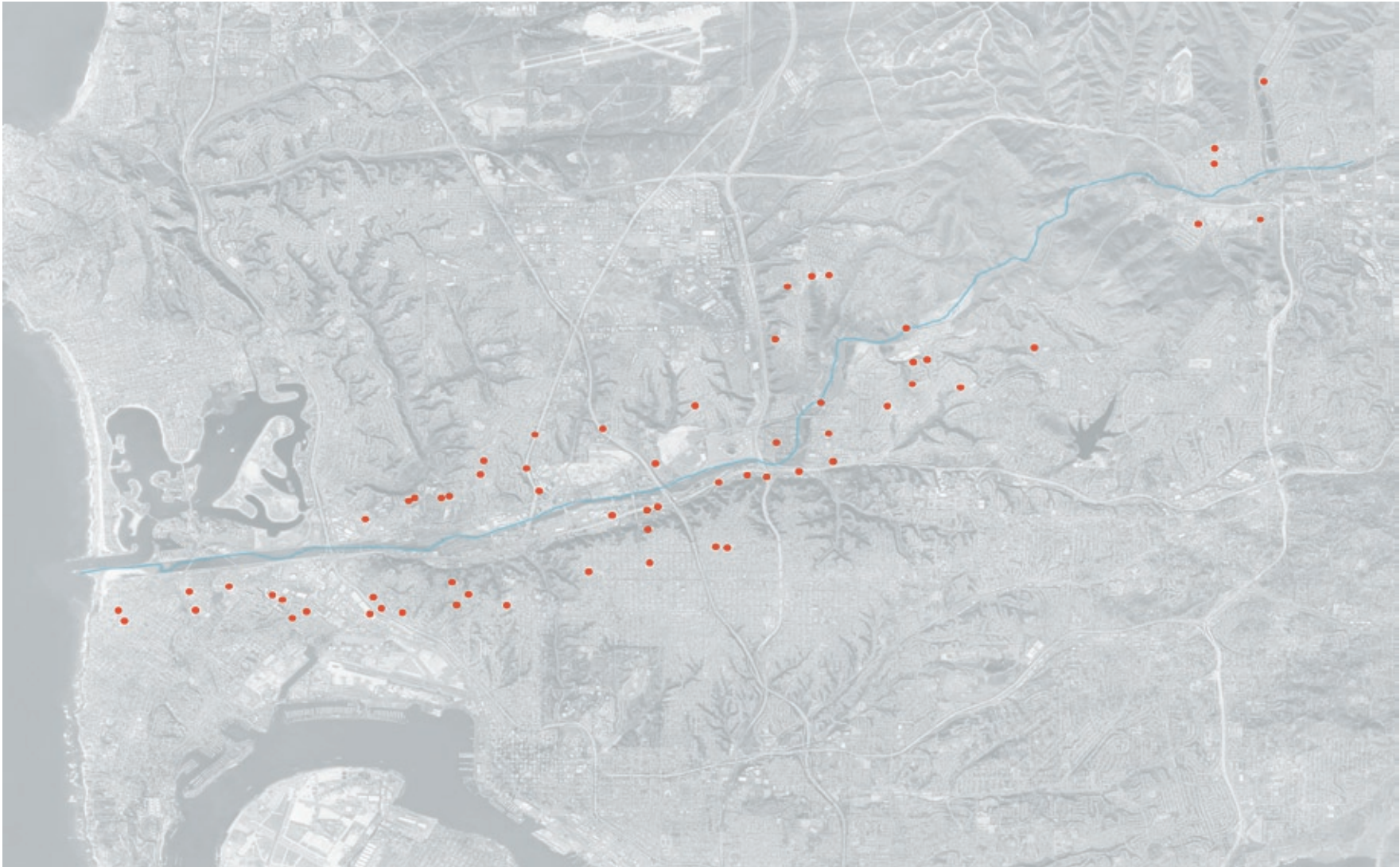
Significant segments of the study area include publicly owned land, including Mission trails Regional Park, Qualcomm Stadium, mission Valley Preserve, Southern Wildlife Refuge and Mission Bay Park. Significant land area is also publicly held roadway rights-of-way, or in ownership by transportation entities, including Caltrans. Within Mission Valley, much of the river corridor itself is within private ownership. Within Mission Valley commercial activities abut directly adjacent to the river floodway.

Floodway / Floodplain

Historically the floodplain included the entire valley floor, the whole Mission Valley floor, the entire Mission Bay and what is now Ocean Beach, extending to San Diego Bay. The remarkably narrow floodway today is the result of numerous manipulations of both streamflow and the channel.



Existing floodway and floodplain



Existing schools within 1 mile from river

Schools and Universities.

Over fifty-six universities, high schools, middle schools and elementary schools are located within a mile of the river. The river presents an extraordinary educational opportunity to these institutions, and the faculty and students attending these schools are a wonderful resource for programs to protect and improve the rivers health.